IN THE DRAWINGS:

Subject to the approval of the Examiner, please amend the drawings as requested in the Request for Approval of Drawing Change filed herewith.

REMARKS

Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment together with a patent application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b).

In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants add section headings and section subheadings to conform to U.S. practice. Applicants also add claims to the right of priority and benefit. Additionally, Applicants amend the paragraph on page 3, at lines 13-33, to improve clarity, and cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 2-54. Further, Applicants submit a Request for Approval of Drawing Change to incorporate drawing symbols from MPEP 608.02. The originally-filed specification, claims, abstract, and drawings fully support the amendments to the specification and the Request for Approval of Drawings Change. No new matter was introduced.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 29, 2002

By: _____
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Filing Date: January 29, 2002
Attorney Docket Number: 5788.0077.02

APPENDIX TO PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT DATED JANUARY 29, 2002

Amendments to the Specification

On page 3, lines 13-33, please amend the paragraph beginning "The Applicant has now found that . . . .", as follows:

The Applicant has now found that, in consequence of a mechanical damage which creates a discontinuity in at least one of the cable coating layers, it is possible to obtain effective self-repairing of the coating by virtue of the presence of an inner layer, placed, for example, between the insulating layer and the outer [sheath, this] sheath. This inner layer [comprising] comprises [of] a material having a predetermined cohesiveness and, at the same time, a controlled flowability, which is capable of repairing the damage by restoring the continuity of the coating layer. After creation of a discontinuity in the coating, the material "moves" towards the point of damage and fills up, at least partly, the discontinuity by forming a substantially continuous layer which is capable of maintaining the functionality of the cable under the expected working conditions. The action of the self-repairing material, which occurs with a [revesible] reversible mechanism, prevents, among other things, moisture infiltration and establishment of leakage currents, and thus a quick corrosion of the conductor.

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approved
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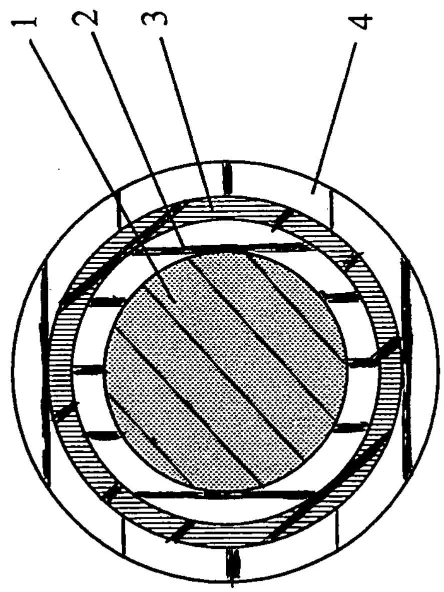
1/13/02

Fig. 1



NOTE TO DRAFTSPERSON:
PLEASE REMOVE SHADING SHOWN IN BLACK, GRAY, AND WHITE
AND ADD CROSS-HATCHING SHOWN IN RED.

Fig. 2

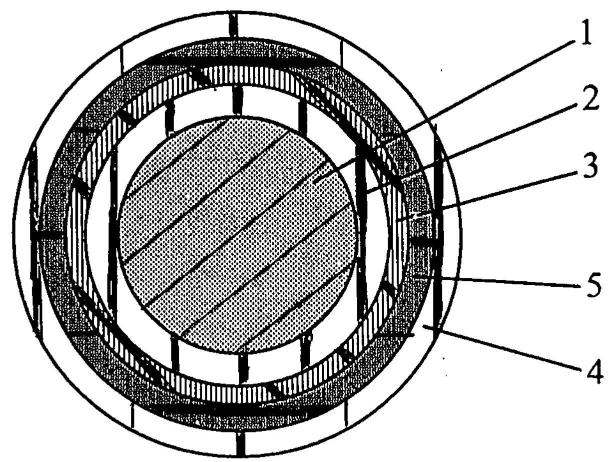


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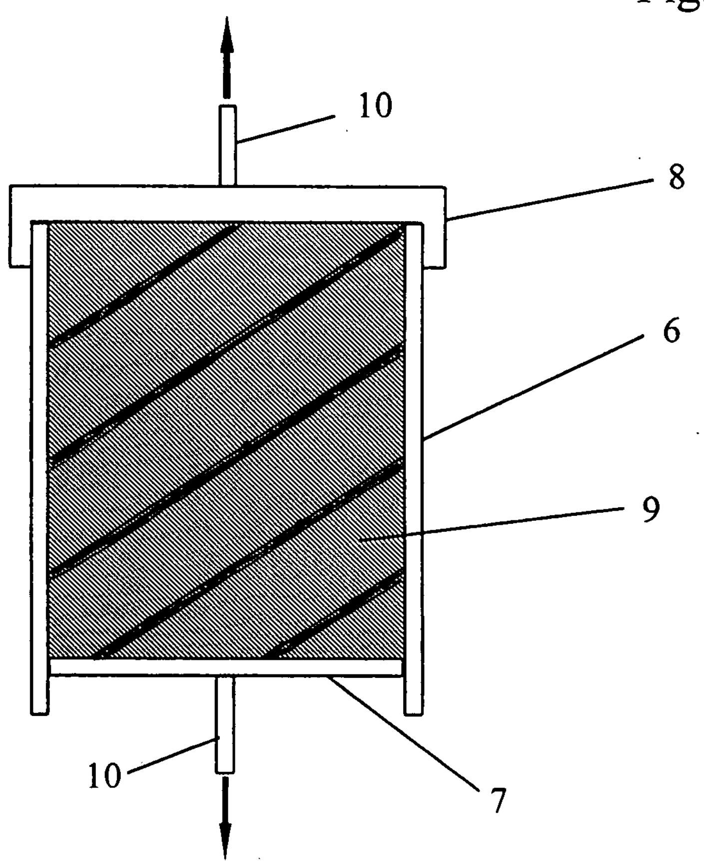
Fig. 3



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